

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action dated April 11, 2007, applicant respectfully traverses the refusal of the claims as previously presented and as currently presently in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,773,345. Applicant's claimed invention focuses on the fact that each of the plurality of reflecting surfaces corresponds to one of the sub-beams being emitted from the semiconductor laser device. This one-to-one relationship is clearly shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 of the application. The diffraction grating (119) disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,773,345 (see Figure 24) has a plurality of stepped reflecting surfaces. This diffraction grating (119) has many more reflecting surfaces than emitters in the semiconductor laser. Therefore, the light of one emitter will be reflected by many more than one reflecting surface. A diffraction grating, as disclosed in the '345 patent, always has a plurality of identical structures to deflect light by interference. It is clear that one skilled in the art would never replace a reflecting mirror by a diffraction grating because the diffraction grating always selects a specific wavelength. The diffraction grating, depicted by numeral 119, in U.S. Patent No. 5,773,345, has a specific wavelength that is reflected back into the semiconductor laser to let this laser emit solely this specific wavelength. This means that the grating, numeral 119, is more or less a tuning element. The at least one reflecting means of the present invention does not tune the laser, but rather, modifies the mode spectrum of the laser. This is a totally different result and therefore, the disclosure of Ota could not contemplate, suggest, disclose, nor render obvious the subject matter presently claimed in the application.

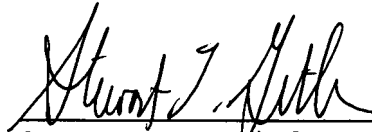
Further, a diffraction grating never reflects a laser beam totally. There is always a part of the laser beam which is deflected into higher orders.

Additional claim 10, as presented, is patentable over the cited art, as well. The subject matter of the claim is fully supported in the specification as presently on file.

Please note that the "Ota" document was previously presented by applicant in an Information Disclosure Statement and was part of the prosecution of the European counterpart. The EPO issued a patent with claims similar to the claims now presented. As such, it is clear that the current claims are patentable over the art of record.

If any questions remain, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stewart L. Gitler", is written over a horizontal line.

Stewart L. Gitler
Reg. No. 31,256

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HOFFMAN, WASSON & GITLER, P.C.
2461 South Clark Street
Suite 522
Arlington, VA 22202
703-415-0100

Customer No. 20741

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